

Tapered block copolymers of monovinylarenes and conjugated dienes.

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Abstract

A method for preparing tapered block copolymers in a polymerization process by sequentially charging: (1) an initiator and monovinylaromatic monomers in the presence of a randomizer; (2) an initiator and monovinylaromatic monomers; (3) a mixture of monovinylaromatic and conjugated diene monomers; (4) conjugated diene monomers; and (5) a coupling agent; to produce a polymodal tapered block copolymer. The copolymers are particularly useful for applications such as packaging and food or drink containers which require transparency and good environmental stress crack resistance.

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